

SECTION 5.0

IMPORTANT INTRODUCTORY NOTES

This section describes and illustrates, in thirteen (13) sub-sections, various standardized, best management practices associated with activities within streams and ditches. For each practice, a description, purpose, applicability, advantages, constraints, design and construction guidelines, maintenance, and listing of further information sources are summarized. In addition, a summary has been provided for each group of activities briefly introducing the practices in the group and providing additional general information about them.

The practices contained in the Handbook are intended to be selected and applied on a case by case basis and for an appropriate reach of a subject ditch or stream. **Nothing in this Handbook is intended to force the application of a practice or its indiscriminate utilization along the entire length of a stream or ditch.** Such indiscriminate utilization of a practice along the entire reach of a drainageway not only may be cost prohibitive, but may also be ineffective in many settings. Planning and selection principles explained earlier in Section 4 of this Handbook should be utilized to allow selection and use of the most appropriate practice for each specific reach of a drainageway.

The activities and practices described in the Handbook are not all-inclusive. Drainage improvement activities may also be accomplished through innovative or non-standard practices which may not have been included in this handbook.